

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 H-02 /020 W

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R 161055Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4530

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, NP

SUBJ: ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICAN BIDDER

REF: STATE 45010

1. REAL REASON FOR DISRUPTION OF AIRPORT CONTRACT AWARD NOT CLEAR. THERE HAVE BEEN PRIVATE ALLEGATIONS THAT IT WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT A SWISS COMPETITOR IS REPRESENTED BY A SON OF THE PRIME MINISTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS WAS IN FACT HASTY AND POORLY DONE AND THAT A MORE THOROUGH STUDY MAY BE JUSTIFIED. ON MARCH 11 DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EVALUATION COMMITTEE WERE REPLACED AS PART OF A WIDER SHAKE-UP IN HMG'S CIVIL ENGINEERING BUREAUCRACY. SOME OF THE CHANGES WERE CLEARLY IN THE INTERESTS OF IMPROVED ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY. WHILE THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE INCLUSION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE IN THIS SHUFFLE WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THEIR HANDLING OF THE CASE IN POINT, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHETHER THEY IN FACT WERE RAPPED FOR BEING TOO CONSCIENTIOUS OR NOT CONSCIENTIOUS ENOUGH.

2. ADB REPRESENTATIVE FOR HIGHWAYS AND AIRPORT PROJECTS, WHO VISITED KATHMANDU LAST WEEK, WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE QUESTION. WHILE HE OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT EAGER TO GET THE ADB EMBROILED IN A SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE, HE DID POINT OUT THAT IF THERE SHOULD BE A SERIOUS

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DISCREPANCY BETWEEN HMG'S AND THE BANK'S EVALUATIONS OF

BIDDER PROPOSALS THE BANK WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS
DISCREPANCY WITH HMG. EAVES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DISCRIMINATION, ALLEGATIONS, BUSINESS FIRMS, AIRPORTS, CONTRACTS, TRADE COMPLAINTS, PROPOSALS (BID)
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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